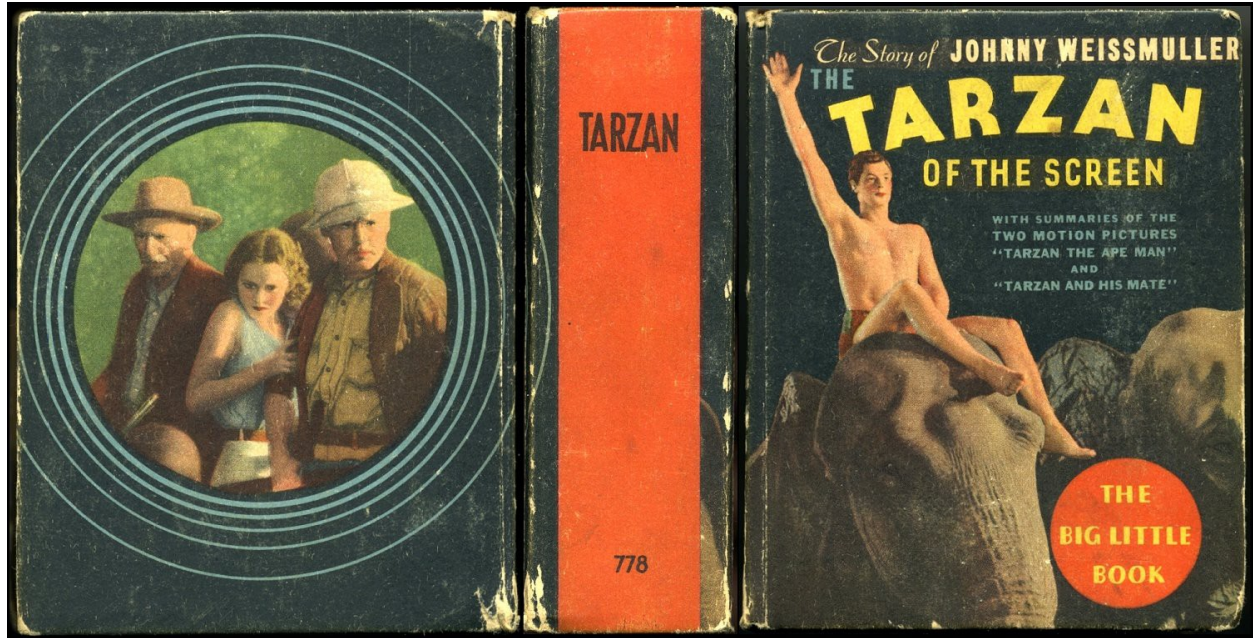


Tarzan the Ape Man - Based on the MGM Film starring Johnny Weissmuller



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Jane Parker joins her father's African expedition in search of the Elephants' Graveyard



Tarzan lived happily and peacefully in the heart of his green wilderness. His home was a comfortable nest in a treetop, a little house made of woven branches covered with skins. His bed was a deep pile of soft furs. His friends were the apes, the elephants, the birds and the huge lumbering hippopotami.

Close to Tarzan's house was a high gray cliff, called the Mutia Escarpment. No white man had ever crossed this rocky wall. Beyond it lay the Burial Ground of the Elephants, that mysterious place to which the wounded and sick animals wandered to die.

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Only Tarzan and his friends, the elephants, knew the trail which led from the cliff down into the secret valley where the whitened bones of long-dead elephants and their precious ivory tusks lay gleaming in the hot African sunlight.



For a long time James Parker, tall, grizzled Englishman who had lived for many years in Africa, had dreamed of finding the fortune of ivory which lay in the hidden Burial Ground. Finally Parker, with his daughter, Jane, and a young English adventurer, Harry



Holt, decided to set forth on the long, dangerous search for the secret Graveyard. With the help of their faithful gun-bearer, Riano, they prepared a huge safari, the African name for a caravan of native burden-bearers carrying food and supplies on a trip through the jungles.



Early one morning they started on their journey. Day after day they hacked their way with sharp axes through the dense underbrush, following the dark waters of streams and faint animal trails, hunting always for the stone cliff which barred the way to the Burial Ground of the Elephants.



Finally, after along, weary weeks of travelling, they reached the Mutia Escarpment which they were seeking. The natives crouched in fear behind the white men, afraid of the unknown which lay beyond that wall of rock.



With his stinging whip Riano

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forced the black men to their feet. Slowly the safari stumbled upward along the faint thread of an elephant trail. After long hours of climbing they reached the top and threw themselves on the ground to rest.



Suddenly a weird unearthly cry echoed in the stillness. The white men reached for their guns, the natives for their knives. Again the cry shattered the silence of the late afternoon.

Through the leaves above the safari came a troupe of apes, swinging lightly from branch to branch. In their midst was a tall, slim, tanned figure, dressed only in a leopard skin. The muscles of his legs and arms rippled as he stopped suddenly and swayed gracefully on a slender branch.



The apes went on their noisy way through the trees. But the man in the leopard skin stood silently, gazing down in startled wonder upon the safari beneath him. Tarzan was looking upon his first white man.

"He's white, Father," Jane whispered, "He's a man. Not an ape. Talk to him. Riano, please. Ask him to come down."



Riano spoke to him in the language of several jungle tribes. But Tarzan did not answer. He merely looked down with his wondering, blue eyes. Then, after a long time, he dropped lightly to the ground in front of Jane. Parker and Holt gripped their guns as Tarzan stared at them.

Suddenly there was a faint rustling in the underbrush. Quickly Parker and Holt turned, just as a row of dark, ugly Pygmy heads disappeared among the leaves. When the two white men turned back, Tarzan and Jane were gone.



With one swift, silent movement Tarzan had gathered the girl under his strong, bare arm and had noiselessly slipped away into the dense underbrush which covered the cliff. Desperately the safari started in pursuit of the white King of the Apes and his prisoner. But they lost the trail. The jungle swallowed Tarzan and Jane in its mysterious darkness.

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Tarzan ran on light feet, carrying the struggling, screaming Jane to his treetop home. Up through the leaves he swung her and put her gently down on the wide branch outside the rough shelter which was his house. The terrified girl clung to the tree trunk, sobbing, afraid to move. Without smiling or speaking, Tarzan crouched on the limb beside Jane and stared at her with wondering eyes.

Suddenly Jane felt a soft paw on her shoulder. She turned to look into the friendly eyes of a little monkey who had crept quietly from the leaves. Jane screamed. The little monkey threw her arms around the girl's neck with an almost human tenderness. That was Jane's first meeting with Chita, who was to be her friend during all her days in the jungle.

When darkness sifted through the trees, Tarzan carried the frightened sobbing Jane into the darkness of the small house and dropped her gently on the pile of soft furs which made his bed. Carefully he covered her with warm skins. Then he carried a few furs outside the shelter and made a bed for himself on the platform. When Tarzan was asleep, with the sharp blade of his knife thrust into the branch close to his hand, little Chita crept into the house to rest beside Jane, who had cried herself into an exhausted sleep.



With the first rosy light of dawn, Tarzan reached into the shelter and grabbed Jane's ankle in his strong fingers and pulled her out on to the platform. They sat side by side, with Chita tumbling gaily around them. IN the morning brightness, with Tarzan's bewildered and kind eyes watching her, Jane was no longer afraid of him.



After a long time of silent staring, Tarzan made chewing noises with his mouth and pointed to the ground beneath, trying to tell Jane that he was hungry and that he would bring food. When the girl's smile told him that she understood, he swung rapidly through the treetops in search of food.

A short time later, when he was returning with fresh meat from his kill, a strange sight met Tarzan's eyes. He crouched unseen against a tree trunk. Beneath his house stood the white and black men with long shiny sticks in their hands. A huge ape was standing on the branch beside Jane, snarling down at the men, protecting the girl in Tarzan's absence. Suddenly fire and noise burned from one of the shiny sticks and the ape fell screaming to the ground.

Then Tarzan saw Jane slide into her father's waiting arms.



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He watched the safari rapidly push its way out of sight through the underbrush.



Quickly Tarzan ran to the side of the fallen ape. A look of cold fury came into his blue eyes when he saw that the animal was lifeless. Gripping his knife, he set out in pursuit of the white men. He was going to avenge his friend of the jungle.



Finally the safari reached its camp. Jane tried to explain to her father and Holt that Tarzan was not an animal, that he was a human being who had been kind to her. Startled by a faint noise, they looked up to see Tarzan and a huge ape poised in the branches above their heads.

Parker and Holt reached for their guns but Jane stopped them. Slowly she walked forward until she stood beneath the branch where Tarzan and the ape were whispering together. Softly she called to Tarzan, asking him to come down.

Uttering his strange cry, Tarzan swayed through the leaves and dropped to the ground at the other end of the little clearing. As the two white men and the natives turned to face him, the ape slipped silently behind Jane, grabbed her in strong arms and carried her into the jungle toward Tarzan's home.



Holt fired wildly at Tarzan who was rapidly disappearing in the treetops. One bullet seared Tarzan's head with fire. But on and on he went, half fainting with dizziness and pain. Finally he dropped to the ground and lay there, motionless.

He did not know that two keen, cruel eyes were watching him. Nearer and nearer on padded feet crept a hungry lion. With a terrific roar, the lion sprang. Desperately Tarzan rolled out of the path of the lion's hurtling body. He stumbled to his feet and braced himself against a tree, his knife in his hand. Snarling, the lion leaped again. With one mighty effort, Tarzan sank his knife into the animal's heart. Then his dimming eyes saw two other tawny bodies, crouched in the bushes. With his last strength, Tarzan sent his call

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echoing through the jungle.

An elephant, feeding a short distance away, stopped to listen. Swiftly he turned and crashed through the underbrush toward his friend. Before the lions could spring, the huge elephant lumbered between them and their prey and stood threatening guard over Tarzan's motionless body. Growling with fright the lions slunk away into the jungle.



Gently the elephant lifted Tarzan in his trunk and carried him to the safety of a moss-covered ledge near a cool stream. Then he set off through the jungle, trumpeting loudly. He went straight to the tree which held Tarzan's home. The apes heard his call and chattered in answer. Two huge apes pulled the terrified Jane from the shelter and carried her with them as they followed the elephant through the jungle toward Tarzan.



When the girl saw the injured Tarzan, she forgot her fear. She tore her jacket into strips, dipped the cloth into the cool water and tenderly bandaged Tarzan's head.



For many long days they stayed beside the little stream. Then, when Tarzan was strong again, they returned to the house in the trees. Tarzan taught Jane to love him and his friends who were so good to her. And Jane taught Tarzan to understand a few words of her language.

Then, one day, Tarzan and Jane looked down through the leaves and saw the safari winding slowly along a trail beneath them, searching in hopeless anxiety for the lost girl. With tears in her blue eyes, Jane explained to Tarzan that she must return to her father who loved her.

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Tarzan understood. Tenderly he lifted the girl in his arms and carried her down through the branches to the ground. Silently he watched her run to her surprised and happy father. Then slowly he turned and walked away into the jungle. Jane called to him, begged him to come back to her. But Tarzan did not answer. When he was gone, the girl buried her head on her father's shoulder and sobbed out to him her love for Tarzan. Slowly little Chita crept out of the bushes and nestled in Jane's arms.



Suddenly there was an ominous rustling in the underbrush. From behind the trees appeared a ring of ferocious, grinning, black faces.



"Pygmies," Holt whispered hoarsely. "They've surrounded us. If we try to fight, they will butcher us." The tiny warriors closed in up on the safari and forced it to move forward. Jane held little Chita in her arms as they walked on and on. Finally they could hear the sound of beating drums and knew that they were drawing near to the Pygmy village.

Frantically Jane whispered to the little monkey, "Find Tarzan, Chita. Tarzan."



Chita understood. Unseen she slipped from Jane's arms and crept silently into the jungle.

The weary, terrified prisoners reached the Pygmy village and were led into a straw-thatched hut, its darkness lighted only by the flickering torches in the hands of the Pygmies. When she could see in the dim light, Jane screamed. There, at their feet, was a huge pit, hollowed out of the rocks. Crouched on its floor was a giant gorilla, glaring up at them with cruel, evil eyes. On the opposite side of the pit, the Pygmies sat, holding long, strong ropes in their hands.



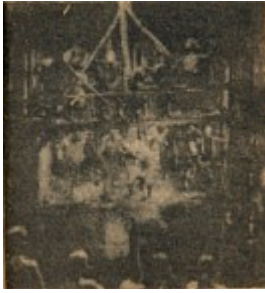
Slowly these ropes, swished through the air, tightened about the cringing bodies of the captives, swung them over the pit and dropped them, one by one, into the arms of the hunger-mad gorilla.

While the helpless prisoners were being sent to their deaths, little Chita raced through the jungle in search of Tarzan. She found him at last and told him what had happened. Loudly Tarzan sent



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his call to summon the elephants and apes. With Chita leading the way, they raced through the darkness toward the Pygmy village.



In the death hut a rope circled Jane's body and swung her over the pit. Holt leaped from the ledge and rushed at the gorilla. With one blow, the animal knocked the man senseless. Parker jumped into the pit and smashed the flame of a torch into the animal's face. The gorilla hurled the man's body to the ledge above. Then the animal reached for Jane.

"Tarzan," she called frantically, "Tarzan."

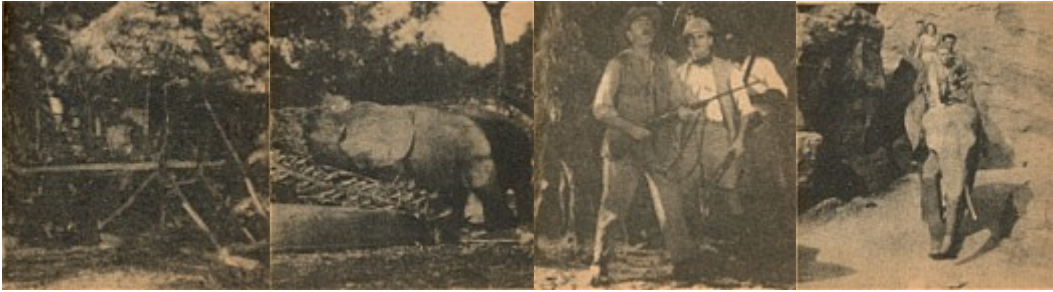


As if in answer to her call, Tarzan burst through the door and leaped into the pit. Desperately the man and the gorilla battled until finally Tarzan's knife found the animal's heart. While the enraged Pygmies rained their spears into the pit, Tarzan sounded his call.

The trumpeting of a hundred elephants answered him. Angrily the huge animals trampled the village into the floor of the jungle. Screaming, the Pygmies fled into the forest and a peaceful silence settled over the wreckage.



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As Tarzan and the only living members of the safari, Jane, Parker and Holt, moved slowly through the jungle on the backs of two elephants, the animal which was carrying the injured Parker and Tarzan, suddenly stumbled. Tarzan discovered a poisoned spear in the animal's side.



"He will go to the Elephant's Burial Ground to die," Holt and Parker whispered.

Tarzan finally understood Jane's wish to follow the dying elephant. Hours later they reached the secret valley with its heaped bones and ivory tusks. The wounded elephant slipped to the ground and lay still. When Tarzan tried to help Parker from the fallen animal's back, he looked into the lifeless face of the man who had died as his dream came true. Sadly the three left him there, sleeping in the silent tomb.



When they reached a spot near Tarzan's home, Jane slipped from the elephant's back to the ground and stood beside Tarzan.

"I will stay with Tarzan," she said, "His jungle shall be my jungle."

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So Holt went away alone.

With Tarzan's arm around her, Jane watched him go.

Then she and Tarzan turned toward the jungle to begin a new life together.

